The matter was placed before the Inter-State Council in its meeting held on 17.7.1997 for further consideration. There was also no consensus in this meeting in regard to amendment of article 356. Efforts will continue to evole a consensus on the issue.

Raids by IB on Enforcement Directorate Offices

829. SHRI M.A. BABY: SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Intelligence Bureau to conduct raids or inspections at the office of the Enforcement Directorate;

(b) if so, who recommended or ordered for the same;

(c) the motive or intention behind this;

. (d) the result of the above raids/ inspections; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (e) In the discharge of its assigned functions, Intelligence Bureau is required to conduct enquiry in consultation with the Ministry/Department concerned, into cases of leakage of official information.

In this case, on a specific request received from the Department of Revenue by Intelligence Bureau to look into leakage of information from the Directorate of Enforcement, which had been adversely commented upon by the Supreme Court, Officers of the Intelligence Bureau visited the director of Enforcement by appointment and meetings were held on June 6, 12 and 19, 1997. Such enquiries are totally open and routine and are conducted in consultation with the Department concerned. As such, it is incorrect to describe these visits of Intelligence Bureau Officers to Enforcement Directorate office as a raid.

Assignments for the Intelligence Bureau

830. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased > to state:

(a) the authority under whose direction the Intelligence Bureau is expected to take up assignments;

,

(b) whether the Intelligence Bureau can take up an assignment which comes from outside the periphary of the Home Department; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Intelligence Bureau is the nodal agency to provide advice, guidance and assistance in maintaining the security of all Departments and Ministries of the Government of India. It is required to carry out inspections and to enquires into any breaches of security which may occur. Such enquiries/assignments can be taken up either on the request of any of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India or on its own volition.

Law and Order Situation in North-Eastern Region

831. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the insurgency and the worsening law and order situation in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to seal the borders with the neighbouring countries to stop infiltration from across the borders;